

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figures 8 and 9 have been amended to include the legend “Prior Art”. Replacement drawing sheets are enclosed.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 5 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to the elements of canceled claims 2-4. Claim 5 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims have been amended, and claims have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to “the invention” is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Drawings

The Draftsman objected to Figures 8 and 9 as requiring a legend such as “Prior Art” because only that which is old is illustrated. Substitute formal drawings are enclosed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by *Lee* (US 2003/0223020 A1).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of canceled claims 2-4. The Office action, in the rationale for the rejection of claims 3 and 4, indicated that *Lee* fails to disclose that one of the projections is longer than the other, and that *Lee* also fails to disclose that the longitudinal center point of one projection lies on the centered line and the longitudinal center point of the other projection is removed from the centerline. Thus it is respectfully submitted that rejection under 35 USC § 102 is moot in view of the amendments to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Office action rejected claim 3 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from *Lee* in view of *Onishi* (JP 2000180854). The Office action rejected claim 4 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from *Lee* in view of *Shiotani* (JP 2002006142).

Since claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claims 2-4, claim 1 is effectively rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from *Lee* in view of both *Onishi* and *Shiotani*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* (KSR), 550 U.S. ___, 127 S. Ct. 1727 (2007), the Supreme Court reiterated that claim rejections under 35 USC § 103 must be based on the analysis originally defined in *Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966). This analysis is objective:

Under § 103, the scope and content of the prior art are to be determined; differences between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be ascertained; and the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved. Against this background the obviousness or nonobviousness of the subject matter is to be determined. (148 USPQ at 467)

The rejection of claims 1 and 5 is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Office action misinterprets the scope and content of the cited prior art and thus fails to properly ascertain the differences between the prior art and the claimed subject matter.

Claim 1 recites a lighting unit including a housing, a light guide plate and a reflection sheet, wherein the housing has two locking projections that lock with locking portions of the reflection sheet and the light guide plate. The locking projections 14₃ and 14₄ are shown in figure 3. The locking portions 20₁ and 20₂ of the reflecting sheet and the locking portions 21₁ and 21₂ of the light guide plate are shown in figure 4. The partially assembled lighting unit, with the locking projections 14₃ and 14₄ locked with the locking portions 20₁ and 20₂ is shown in figure 7.

The Office action cites *Lee* as describing a lighting unit including a housing having locking projections and a light guide plate 330 and reflection plate 350 or 360 having locking portions. The Office action identifies the bottom chassis 400 as the housing and the first sidewall 410 as the locking projection. The Office action further cites the end surface 331 of the light guide plate as a locking portion and the second reflecting surface 352 or 362 of the reflecting plate as a locking portion. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Office action misinterprets the teachings of *Lee*.

Although the light guide plate 330 and reflecting plate 350 or 360 nest within the bottom chassis, there is no teaching or suggestion in *Lee* that the cited portions of these components lock in any way. The end surface 331 of the light guide plate is not described as anything other than an end surface, and the second reflecting surface 352 or 362 of the reflecting plate is described only as having the function of reflecting light that escapes through surface 331 back into the light guide plate 330 (see paragraph 0083 in particular).

Lee does describe features similar to the locking projection and locking portions recited in claim (see paragraph 0075). The light guide plate 330 has “fixing recesses” (locking portions) 331a and 332a disposed on the first and second side surfaces 331 and 332. When the lighting unit of *Lee* is assembled, these fixing recesses are “coupled” to “fixing protrusions” (locking projections) 570 extending from the bottom mold frame. The light guide plate 350 or 360 also

has “openings” 352a, 362a, 363a in the second and third reflecting surfaces which accept the fixing protrusions. Consideration of figure 3 of *Lee* shows that *Lee* teaches the use of four fixing protrusions (two at each end of the bottom mold frame), none of which is centered along an axis of the lighting unit or the light guide plate.

The Office action cites figure 7 of *Onishi* as disclosing a housing having linear locking projections where one is longer than the other. However neither of the projections 17 is formed on the center line that connects the center points of those of said light guide plate’s edges on which no light source is deployed.

The Office action cites figure 8 of *Shiotani* as disclosing an LCD assembly where a projection 15a may lie on the center line of a light guide plate and a second projection 15b has a longitudinal center point removed from the center line. However, the entire projection 15b is well removed from the centerline, in contrast to the apparatus of claim 1 where both locking projections lie on the center line but the longer projection is not centered on the center line.

In summary, the Office action misinterprets *Lee* as teaching locking projections disposed one a center line of a light guide plate, when *Lee* actually teaches multiple locking projections at each end of a light guide plate, none of which is formed on a center line of the light guide plate. Further, the teachings of *Onishi* and *Shiotani* do not remedy the deficiencies of *Lee*. Thus it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 USC § 103 is improper because the Office action has not correctly determined the scope and content of the prior art or correctly ascertained the difference between the prior art and claims 1 and 5. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Conclusion

It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also

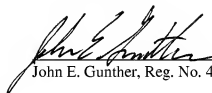
patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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